

# 2013 Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office in the News

**February 16, 2013:** Lafayette Journal and Courier

## **Sex offender pleads guilty for failing to register**

— Jessica Contrera/ [jcontrera@jconline.com](mailto:jcontrera@jconline.com)

A convicted child molester pleaded guilty Friday to failing to register as a sex offender for the third time in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1.

Ronald G. Reid, 44, a homeless man staying in Lafayette, admitted he did not provide law enforcement with updated information on his whereabouts for Indiana's Sex and Violent Offender Registry and violated his probation.

Reid is scheduled to be sentenced on April 12 by Judge Randy Williams. Under a plea agreement with the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office, he faces two to eight years incarceration on the failure to register charge, a Class C felony, and up to six months for the violation of probation.

In 1996, Reid pleaded guilty to molesting two children younger than 12 and was sentenced to seven years in prison. The conviction also required that he be on Indiana's Sex and Violent Offender Registry for life. He was sent back to prison in 2007 and again in 2009 for not registering.

Indiana law typically requires convicted sex offenders to register once a year in person. But homeless offenders must do so every seven days until they find a permanent address.

Through questioning by his attorney, Reid admitted that he began to start the sex offender registry process but chose not to complete it.

He also admitted to missing a December meeting with his probation officer.

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**February 15, 2013:** WLFI TV

## **Man gets 3 decades behind bars for role in 2010 Lafayette murder**

Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) - A Putnam County man has been sentenced to more than 30 years in prison for his part in a 2010 Lafayette murder.

In a sentence hearing Friday afternoon, 30-year-old Jeremiah Thompson was given 33 years behind bars and 2 years of supervised probation.

In January Thompson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery and conspiracy to commit burglary for his part in the April 2010 shooting of 21-year-old Kory Rogers.

As part of the plea deal, seven other charges, including murder, were dropped.

He was facing anywhere from 20 to 35 years behind bars.

"He was realistic enough to know that he wouldn't get 20. He was hopeful that he wouldn't get the 33, as he did. But the number 25 was his own number that he came up with, recognizing that were aggravating circumstances that the court was going to hold against him," said John Commons, Thompson's attorney.

Thompson's criminal history was brought up against him. His list of previous crimes includes theft, possession of marijuana, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

On Friday, Thompson addressed the Rogers family. He told them he was sorry and that he hopes they can accept his apology.

"One of the important aspects of it, I believe, was in his own words, he wasn't making any excuses," said Commons.

Rogers' mother also spoke. She told Thompson this will not be his only judgment day. She said when the next judgment day comes, he will not have a plea agreement to hide behind.

She said she wanted this terrible part of her family's lives to end with this final sentencing.

"They want a finality. They wanted to end this chapter in their life. And with this sentence, this defendant cannot appeal so his case has truly ended," said Pat Harrington, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor.

Harrington said after working on the case for 34 months, it's time for closure.

Last summer Edward Zaragoza was sentenced to 120 years in prison for his role in the murder.

Thompson went to trial in August, but it ended in a hung jury.

Thompson has already served more than 700 days in prison for the 2010 crime. Prosecutors said that will go toward his sentencing.

## **February 15, 2013: TCPO**

### **Two Men Charged in the West Lafayette Check into Cash Armed Robbery**

Landon Terrell Harbert, 37, of West Lafayette, and Malcolm M. Smith, 37, of Indianapolis, were charged yesterday with the following:

**Count I: Robbery, Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon, Class B Felony**

**Count II: Theft, Class D Felony**

**Count III: Robbery, Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon, Class B Felony**

**Count IV: Theft, Class D Felony**

**This case was investigated by the West Lafayette Police Department.**

*All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.*

## **Man gets 33 years in prison for Lafayette shooting death**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; svoravong@jconline.com

A Reelsville man was sentenced this afternoon to 33 years in prison for his involvement in the April 8, 2010, shooting death of 21-year-old Kory D. Rogers.

That was the maximum amount of incarceration that 30-year-old Jeremiah Thompson faced under a plea agreement with the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office.

His prison time will be followed by two years on supervised probation.

On Jan. 3, Thompson pleaded guilty in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 to conspiracy to commit robbery and conspiracy to commit burglary, both Class A felonies

Rogers, a marijuana dealer, was fatally shot once in chest in the basement apartment of his sister's house at 2200 Ottawa Drive, near Jefferson High School on Lafayette's south end. Prosecutors alleged that Thompson and Edward C. Zaragoza were after a large sum of cash and marijuana that Rogers had stolen from his supplier in mid-March of 2010, a few weeks before his death.

Neither suspect knew Rogers, but investigators and prosecutors relied heavily on cellphone technology and statements from their acquaintances to piece together the case, according to evidence and testimony presented during their respective trials.

Zaragoza, who is the husband of Thompson's cousin, repeatedly denied these claims. But Thompson's guilty plea reiterated what investigators suspect happened all along.

Zaragoza is serving a 120-year prison sentence after a jury convicted him last summer of felony murder, murder, being a serious violent felon in possession of a handgun and seven other charges.

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**February 13, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Man nabs himself another charge after jail fight**

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) - A Tippecanoe County Jail inmate who has been behind bars on charges of making meth now has another felony charge on his list.

According to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington, 20-year-old Ty Wilkerson is facing a charge of battery (a Class C felony) after being accused of assaulting a fellow inmate. Wilkerson was already in jail on charges of manufacturing and possessing meth.

Court documents say on Feb. 7, Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Lt. S. Hodson was sent to the jail for a report of battery between inmates.

Upon arrival to the C3 area of C-Pod (a section of the jail), Hodson said he noticed blood drops on the floor.

The victim of the battery had been transported to St. Elizabeth Central Hospital, where doctors said he would need surgery for several broken bones in his face, and it appeared his left orbital bone (the bone around his left eye) had been broken.

The victim told Hodson that Wilkerson had come down the stairs to the C3 dayroom, walked up to the victim and punched him in the face. The victim said he had then walked back to his cell, but that a short time later, Wilkerson had entered the victim's cell and hit him repeatedly. The victim said both attacks were completely by surprise.

Hodson took a look at the surveillance video footage from the area in question within the jail. Court docs say the video shows Wilkerson coming down the stairs in C3 in a "brisk manner," setting a Styrofoam cup down and then turning and immediately throwing a punch at the unsuspecting victim.

After the punch, the video shows the two squared off for a moment, but no more activity occurred. The two retreated to their respective cells.

However, after the confrontation, the video shows exactly what the victim described: Wilkerson rushing to the victim's cell, deliberately closing the door behind him. The video shows other inmates peering through the cell door window.

Lt. Hodson said it was clear an altercation was taking place inside the victim's cell.

Court documents go on to say Wilkerson admitted to officers that he struck Miller in the face, but denied subsequently entering Miller's cell, despite the video showing him clearly doing this. Wilkerson claimed Miller had called him a name.

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**February 12, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Probation, \$5K restitution for ex-Purdue football player who punched woman**



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Booted Purdue University football player Sean P. Collins will spend 275 days on probation and must complete 40 hours of work crew service for punching a woman in the face last summer outside a West Lafayette bar.

The sentence was handed down Tuesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 5, after 21-year-old Collins pleaded guilty to battery resulting in bodily injury, a misdemeanor. Additional misdemeanor counts of resisting law enforcement and public intoxication were dropped under a plea agreement with the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office.

Collins must also pay \$5,404.16 in restitution to the victim, 22-year-old Holly Fullerton of Monticello. He's further banned from using or possessing alcoholic beverages or controlled substances and cannot enter any taverns, bars or liquor stores while on probation.

The incident took place about 1 a.m. on July 14, 2012, outside the former location of Where Else? bar, 304 W. State St., in West Lafayette's Village.

Fullerton told investigators that she and a group of friends were standing outside Where Else? when Collins approached them, allegedly to pick a fight with her male acquaintance, according to court documents.

After Fullerton tried to intervene, Collins grabbed her arm and hit her cheek with his fist.

Fullerton was treated at a Lafayette hospital and released the same day.

Then-coach Danny Hope dismissed Collins from Purdue's football team on July 15. Collins joined the Boilermakers in 2009 as a walk-on and was on the roster in 2010 and 2011.

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**February 11, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Man gets 20 years on charges of cooking meth**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jconline.com](mailto:svoravong@jconline.com)

A Frankfort man was sentenced Monday to 20 years in prison, followed by five years on probation, for cooking methamphetamine in a Lafayette motel room.

Ty C. Wilkerson, 20, pleaded guilty last month in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 to dealing meth, a Class A felony.

His co-defendant, 33-year-old Pedro Villarreal, also of Frankfort, received the same sentence in late January.

Their arrests on April 23, 2012, came when Lafayette police Officer Ian O'Shields was on routine patrol at Knights Inn, 4110 Indiana 26 East. O'Shields became suspicious when the door to one motel room kept opening and closing periodically, but no one was entering or exiting the room.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed with the charges, Wilkerson eventually walked outside. When O'Shields asked whether anyone else was inside, Wilkerson replied "Pete" and gave O'Shields a key card for the room.

Villarreal, however, was allegedly less cooperative and slammed the door on O'Shields. Once inside, the officer noted four plastic bottles on heaters appeared to be boiling or cooking.

One of the bottles tested positive for methamphetamine.

Sales records from local pharmacies shows that Wilkerson and Villarreal purchased cold medication containing pseudoephedrine, a common ingredient used to make meth, on numerous occasions in mid-April.

The suspects have to pay \$3,136 in restitution to the Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Section.

**February 11, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Two men arrested trying to rob residence on Butler Street**

— Jessica Contrera/[jcontrera@jconline.com](mailto:jcontrera@jconline.com)

Two men were arrested Monday morning after an attempt to rob a Lafayette residence.

Richard Keith Land Jr. and John Paul Garrison were in the process of robbing 2311 Butler St. in Lafayette when stopped by Officer Chris Jarrett, according to Sgt. Jay E. Rosen of the Lafayette Police Department.

Land was arrested for conspiracy to commit armed robbery, burglary, residential entry, theft and resisting law enforcement. He was being held Monday in Tippecanoe County Jail on a combined \$25,000 surety and \$1,000 local writ cash bond.

Garrison was arrested for armed robbery, burglary, residential entry, theft and resisting law enforcement. He was being held in Tippecanoe County Jail on a \$25,000 surety bond.

At 10:56 a.m., LPD arrived at the residence to find the suspects still on the scene. Garrison was apprehended but Land attempted to flee on foot. Land was apprehended by officers a short while later.

Rosen said a neighbor witnessed Garrison force entry into the residence by breaking in the door while Land stood watch.

The brother of the homeowner was the only person in the house. Garrison allegedly swung a padlock on a chain at the brother, but did not injure him.

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**February 9, 2013: WLFI TV**

### **Lack of partying leads to 14 year sentence**



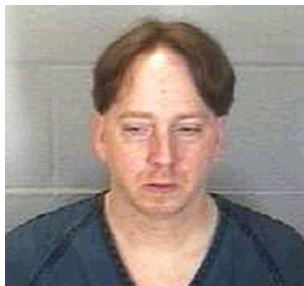
WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - Ronnie Moore Jr., 20, of Lafayette got a 14-year sentence Friday after stealing items from a West Lafayette residence when he and his friends couldn't find a party they were looking for.

Moore stole several items including a laptop and X-Box in September. Police found Moore with some friends nearby, our sister station WLFI reports.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Moore will serve four years in prison, two years in community corrections and eight years of probation.

**February 9, 2013: WLFI TV**

### **Molester of 12-year-old girl gets 30 years**



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFH) - A child molester who forced a 12-year-old girl to give him oral sex on multiple occasions was sentenced to almost three decades in prison this week.

Jason Deaton, 40, of Lafayette was convicted in November on two counts of child molestation.

Investigators said Deaton is an acquaintance of the child's mother.

Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Deaton was sentenced to 28 years in prison and two years of supervised probation. He also must register as a sexually violent predator.

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**February 8, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Convicted molester sentenced to 28 years**

Jason Deaton, 40, was sentenced Friday to 28 years in prison for repeatedly molesting a 12-year-old girl in his care.

Deaton, of Lafayette, was found guilty of two counts of child molesting as a Class A felony following a two-day jury trial in November in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

The girl testified to three incidents that occurred between October 2010 and July 2011, always in Deaton's bedroom with the door closed and locked. She described the sexual acts in graphic detail and said Deaton would thank her afterward.

The girl further was able to describe a mole on Deaton's genitals.

Deaton was an acquaintance of the girl's mother.

His prison time will be followed by two years on probation.

## **Local man sentenced for WL break-in**

A Lafayette man was sentenced Friday to four years in prison, followed by two years on community corrections and eight years on probation, for his involvement in a residential burglary last September near Purdue University.

The apartment, on Hayes Street in West Lafayette, had been unlocked.

Ronnie Moore Jr., 20, was one of three people who the tenant saw in the residence that morning. A laptop, video games, DVDs and a backpack were among the items stolen.

Moore was spotted shortly after with the backpack, which contained the missing laptop and some video games.

He pleaded last month in Tippecanoe Circuit Court to burglary, residential entry, theft and minor consumption.

## **Repeat offender gets 14 years in prison**

A repeat drunken driver with a lifetime license suspension was sentenced Friday to 14 years in prison.

Estaban Gonzalez, 44, of Lafayette, was arrested on Feb. 29, after crashing into another vehicle that was stopped at Indiana 26 East and Creasy Lane.

He admitted drinking, and a portable breath test showed that he had a breath-alcohol concentration of 0.18 percent, more than double Indiana's legal limit.

Gonzalez pleaded guilty last month in Tippecanoe Circuit Court to operating a vehicle while forfeited for life and being a habitual substance offender.

His prison time will be followed by seven years on probation.

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**February 7, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Man's 'atrocious' molestation crimes land him 80 years in prison**



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) - A Tippecanoe County man was sentenced to 80 years behind bars for what some are saying are the worst molestation crimes they've ever seen.

Christopher Bunch will serve 80 years in state prison on five counts of child molestation.

According to court documents, the female victim was between the ages of 7 and 9 during the abuse.

He will serve those as he serves a 34 year federal sentence.

Bunch was sentenced in federal court last month on child pornography charges.

Investigators say they found more than 30,000 child pornography images in Bunch's Battle Ground home in 2011.

They say Bunch would video tape the crime, then show it to the victim.

The prosecution recommended 90 years, but is happy with this sentence.



"This subject was probably if not the worst one of the worst child molesters in my 30 years I've had to deal with," Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said. "He didn't just molest a child, he essentially raped the child. He video taped the child."

The victim did not appear in court. She and her mother did send letters.

When asked if he had anything to say, Bunch told the court, "I'm sorry and I wish it never happened."

**February 7, 2013: TCPO**

## **Antonio Dereil McCaster AKA Demetrius Evans Charged with Dealing Crack Cocaine on February 5, 2013 in Tippecanoe County**

Antonio Dereil McCaster AKA Demetrius Evans, 33, of Lafayette was charged on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 with dealing and possessing crack cocaine.

Count I: Dealing in Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of apartments in the 1600 block of Center Street, the 1400 block of Main Street, 300 block of South 18th Street, Class A Felony

Count II: Possession of Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of apartments in the 1600 block of Center Street, the 1400 block of Main Street, 300 block of South 18th Street, Class B Felony

Count III: Habitual Substance Offender

Count IV: Habitual Offender

This case was investigated by the Drug Task Force.

All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court

**February 7, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Mom who left girl, 4, home alone given probation**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jconline.com](mailto:svoravong@jconline.com)

A Lafayette woman will serve three years on probation for leaving her 4-year-old daughter home alone last summer so she could hang out with friends.

The girl was left with half a cold pizza and Oreo cookies to eat.

Kasey N. Goodwin, 30, pleaded guilty in December to neglect of a dependent, a Class D felony. She did not have the benefit of a plea agreement with the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office.

Goodwin was sentenced Thursday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

On July 12, a neighbor found the 4-year-old girl wandering through the parking lot of Pheasant Run Apartments, off Brady Lane. She wore a winter coat, though it was 89 degrees outside, and had a soiled diaper, according to court documents.

Goodwin and her daughter lived at Pheasant Run.

An employee recognized the girl and let Lafayette police into Goodwin's apartment, which officers described as filthy, with food left out and clothes piled on the floor.

Goodwin, however, initially claimed that a friend was supposed to baby-sit the 4-year-old. Lafayette police contacted the friend, who said that was never arranged.

Goodwin then allegedly admitted leaving the girl so that she could hang out with friends.

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**February 6, 2013: TCPO**

## **Two Charged Today with Cocaine and Heroin Offenses**

Jeffrey P. Pellegrino, 32, of Lafayette was charged with the following today in Tippecanoe County.

Count I: Dealing in Cocaine, Class A Felony

Count II: Possession of Cocaine, Class C Felony

Count III: Dealing in Narcotic Drug (Heroin), Class B Felony

Count IV: Possession of Narcotic Drug (Heroin), Class B Felony

Count V: Maintaining a Common Nuisance, Class D Felony

Kelly M. Tyson, 23, of West Pont was charged with the following today in Tippecanoe County.

Count I: Dealing in Cocaine, Class A Felony

Count II: Possession of Cocaine, Class C Felony

This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

**February 6, 2013: TCPO**

## **Man Charged Today with Four Heroin Felonies**

Rayshon Donielle White, 26, was charged today with the following in Tippecanoe County.

Count I: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of apartments on Ironwood Court, Class A Felony

Count II: Possession of Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Briarwood Apartments, Brampton Apartments, Windemere Apartments, Deerfield Commons Apartments, Class B Felony

Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Briarwood Apartments, Brampton Apartments, Windemere Apartments, Deerfield Commons Apartments, Class A Felony

Count IV: Possession of Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Briarwood Apartments, Brampton Apartments, Windemere Apartments, Deerfield Commons Apartments, Class B Felony

This case was investigated by the Drug Task Force.z

All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

**February 6, 2013: TCPO**

### **Man Charged Today with Eight Heroin Felonies**

Michael Laverick Neal, 22, was formally charged today with the following heroin related felonies in Tippecanoe County:

Count I: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of apartments on Ironwood Court, Class A Felony

Count II: Possession of Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of apartments on Ironwood Court, Class B Felony

Count III: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Briarwood Apartments, Brampton Apartments, Windemere Apartments, Deerfield Common Apartments, Class A Felony

Count IV: Possession of Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Briarwood Apartments, Brampton Apartments, Windemere Apartments, Deerfield Common Apartments, Class B Felony

Count V: Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Claystone at the Crossings Apartments, Class A Felony

Count VI: Possession of Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Claystone at the Crossings Apartments, Class B Felony

Count VII: Possession of Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Claystone at the Crossings Apartments, Class A Felony

Count VII: Possession of Narcotic Drug, within 1,000 feet of Claystone at the Crossings Apartments, Class B Felony

This case was investigated by the Drug Task Force.z

All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

**February 6, 2013: WLFI TV**

### **Lafayette man gets 4 years in prison for stealing swords, guns**



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - A Lafayette man was sentenced this week to prison time and probation after pleading guilty to two counts of felony burglary.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Tuesday that 20-year-old Dustin Butler was sentenced to four years in prison and four years supervised probation.

Harrington says in April of 2012, firearms, swords and electronics were stolen from two Lafayette homes.

Officers got information pointing them to Butler and three others as the people behind the burglaries.

In May of 2012, Harrington says Butler admitted breaking into the two homes.

He told investigators they buried the guns at his mother's house before digging them up and taking them to a friend's trailer.

**February 6, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Judge gives man 6 years in assault Acquaintance had outed him as sex offender**

Justin L. Mack

A Lafayette man who pleaded guilty to assaulting an acquaintance after being outed as a sex offender was given a six-year sentence Wednesday.

Christopher McDaniel Jones, 25, was sentenced in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 to five years with the Indiana Department of Correction and one year with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections with the recommendation of home detention.

On Dec. 14, 2012, Jones plead guilty to assault resulting in serious bodily injury and residential entry.

According to court documents, Jones punched, stomped on and kicked 32-year-old Ryan Moynagh into unconsciousness.

After the attack, Lafayette police found Moynagh lying motionless in a corner of his Union Street apartment. His head was covered in blood, and both of his eyes were severely swollen, court documents allege.

During his sentencing hearing, Jones showed remorse for his crime and vowed to try harder to control his anger in the future.

"I hope and pray that you show some leniency," Jones said to Judge Thomas Busch. "It's hard to be a convicted felon and live in society and take criticism.

"It was just a life-threatening situation."

According to a probable cause affidavit, Jones had been staying with Moynagh.

Police said Moynagh, Jones and a third man were hanging out and drinking on July 26. Jones got angry when Moynagh reportedly asked the third man if he knew that Jones was a sex offender.

Jones left the apartment, but when he returned later, Moynagh would not let him inside. Jones then reached through the partially open door and began choking Moynagh.

Jones' body weight then broke the door chain, allowing him inside.

Police said Jones turned himself in at the scene and admitted to choking and punching Moynagh, then kicking and stomping on Moynagh's head after he fell down. The attack lasted 10 to 15 minutes.

Before delivering his sentence, Busch told Jones that he will need to find a support system to treat his anger and mental health issues in the future. But admitting that he has a problem controlling his emotions is the first step.

"If you've got a short fuse, you're probably always going to have a short fuse," Busch said.

"You need to figure out how to keep it from blowing up."

Court records show that Jones was convicted in Missouri in 2006 on two counts of first degree sodomy to a minor. He was released from prison in March 2011 and is listed on Tippecanoe County's Sex and Violent Offender Registry, which can be found at <http://www.icrimewatch.net/indiana.php>.

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**February 5, 2013: TCPO**

### **Antonio Tutson Charged Yesterday in Tippecanoe County with Six Drug Felonies for Crack Cocaine**

Antonio Tutson, 28, of Lafayette was charged yesterday with the following:

Count I: Dealing in Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of school property, YMCA, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Lafayette, Class A Felony

Count II: Possession of Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of school property, YMCA, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Lafayette, Class B Felony

Count III: Dealing in Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of Tecumseh Middle School/Jefferson High School, Georgetown Apartments, Shoshone Apartments, Lafayette, Class A Felony

Count IV: Possession of Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of Tecumseh Middle School/Jefferson High School, Georgetown Apartments, Shoshone Apartments, Lafayette, Class B Felony

Count V: Dealing in Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of Tecumseh Middle School/Jefferson High School, Georgetown Apartments, Shoshone Apartments, Lafayette, Class A Felony

Count VI: Possession of Cocaine, within 1,000 feet of Tecumseh Middle School/Jefferson High School, Georgetown Apartments, Shoshone Apartments, Lafayette, Class B Felony

This case was investigated by the Drug Task Force.

All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

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**February 5, 2013: TCPO**

### **Two Men Charged with Methamphetamine Related Felonies in Tippecanoe County**

Pablo Lewis Chavez, 26, and Kyle Ray Smith II, 28 were both charged with the following four felonies today.

Count I: Conspiracy to Deal Methamphetamine, within 1,000 feet of St. Lawrence School, Kids Connection child care, Apartments in the 2000 block of Greenbush Street, Lafayette, Class A Felony

Count II: Conspiracy to Deal Methamphetamine, within 1,000 feet of St. Lawrence School, Kids Connection child care, Apartments in the 2000 block of Greenbush Street, Lafayette, Class A Felony

Count III: Illegal Drug Lab, within 1,000 feet of St. Lawrence School, Kids Connection child care, Apartments in the 2000 block of Greenbush Street, Lafayette, Class C Felony

Count IV: Possession of Methamphetamine, within 1,000 feet of St. Lawrence School, Kids Connection child care, Apartments in the 2000 block of Greenbush Street, Lafayette, Class B Felony

In addition, Pablo Lewis Chavez was charged with:

Count V: Habitual Substance Offender

This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department and West Lafayette Police Department.

All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

**February 1, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Former Purdue football player sentenced for synthetic drugs, probation violations**



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - Former Purdue football player DeWayne Beckford was sentenced Thursday to almost 5 years of suspended jail time for possessing a synthetic drug and probation violations. The punishment comes from cases in separate courts.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said in Superior Court 4, Beckford received 2 years of suspended jail time, 2 years with a community correction service, and 10 days of community service for possession of drug paraphernalia with a prior conviction and possession of a synthetic drug.

In Superior Court 6, Harrington said Beckford was sentenced to 6 months of community corrections and an extra year of supervised probation after violating probation multiple times.

Beckford was a starting linebacker for the Purdue football team until former head coach Danny Hope dismissed him from the team last August.

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**January 31, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Ex-Purdue football player Beckford sentenced for bath salts, paraphernalia and 3 probation violations**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jconline.com](mailto:svoravong@jconline.com)

Booted Purdue University football player Dwayne A. Beckford was sentenced Thursday to a combination of community corrections and supervised probation for possessing drug paraphernalia and bath salts, and for violating probation in three prior, separate court cases.

Beckford, 21, of Irvington, N.J., pleaded guilty to the accusations in December in Tippecanoe Superior Courts 4 and 6.

On Thursday, he received:

- Two years and 357 days on “Shadow Tracker” electronic monitoring for possession of paraphernalia, a Class D felony because of a prior conviction for the same offense, and possession of a synthetic drug in Superior Court 4. Beckford was also ordered to complete 80 hours of community service over the next six months.
- Ninety days on house arrest for entering Brother’s Bar & Grill in West Lafayette while on probation for a 2011 possession of drug paraphernalia conviction, also in Superior Court 4.
- For violating probation in two convictions in Superior Court 6 — one for leaving the scene of an accident, the other for operating a vehicle while intoxicated — Beckford was ordered to 180 days on community corrections and another year on probation. The judge recommended house arrest or day reporting.

The violations were for going to Brother’s Bar and having a breath-alcohol content at or above Indiana’s legal limit of 0.08 percent, as recorded on an ignition interlock that was installed on Beckford’s vehicle for the OWI. Those 180 days will run consecutive to Beckford’s sentences in Superior Court 4.

The paraphernalia and bath salts charges stem from an Aug. 20 call to Beckford’s apartment at 108 S. River Road for a heated argument between Beckford and a female acquaintance.

Because Beckford was on house arrest for the drunken driving conviction, officers did not need his consent to search the apartment.

In Beckford’s bedroom, officers found a broken glass smoking pipe with burnt residue, two pieces of aluminum foil with burnt residue on a dresser and a metal container with a substance that presumptively tested positive for bath salts, according to court documents.

It was Beckford’s fourth arrest in 14 months — prompting former Purdue football coach Danny Hope to drop him from the team.

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**January 30, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Man sentenced for dealing cocaine**



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - A Lafayette man was sentenced to two decades in prison for dealing cocaine.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Jerome Milian, 34, was sentenced to 20 years in the Department of Corrections, six years community corrections and seven years suspended after pleading guilty to dealing cocaine and being a habitual substance offender.

As News 18 reported in July 2012, investigators said Milian sold cocaine to a police officer six times between May 10 and July 16, 2012, in the area of 13th and Union streets in Lafayette.

**January 30, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Englert sentenced to 80 years in prison for Jeremy Gibson murder**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; svoravong@jconline.com

When pictures of her brother's acid-burned, severely beaten, unrecognizable body appeared on the projection screen last November in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1, Jennifer Sargent glanced over at the defendant, Darren J. Englert, for his reaction.

But he had none, Sargent tearfully recalled Tuesday during Englert's sentencing hearing for charges that included murder, conspiracy to commit criminal confinement and battery by means of a deadly weapon in the July 6, 2011, death of 26-year-old Jeremy K. Gibson.

"I watched you. Over and over, I watched you," Sargent said, locking her eyes on Englert as he sat stone-faced. "I kept waiting for a reaction, a sign of remorse.

"It didn't happen."

On Tuesday afternoon, following an emotion-filled hearing that lasted nearly three hours, Superior Court 1 Judge Randy Williams sentenced Englert, 21, of Lafayette, to 80 years in prison.

The judge called the crime "the worst of the worst."

"You participated in the sadistic, systematic torture and murder of Jeremy Gibson," Williams said, "followed by the mutilation of his body with acid in an attempt to destroy evidence."

With Indiana's two-for-one good time credit for prisoners, plus 1,142 days credit for good behavior and time spent since July 7, 2011, in Tippecanoe County Jail, Englert could be released from the Department of Correction in 37 years.

Gibson's stepfather, James Warbritton, said afterward that no sentence could truly fit the brutality.

"Ideally, we don't want him released back into society," Warbritton said. "But we understand that the judge gave what he could under Indiana law, and we respect that. ... It's over now, until he appeals.

"We'll have to go, knowing what he did to Jeremy and what happened to all of us through this."

Warbritton and his wife, Mary Warbritton, who is Gibson's mother, thanked Lafayette detectives and prosecutors for their work in "bringing justice to Jeremy."

Gibson had two young boys, Dakota and Riley, who are both 3 years old. Sargent, his older sister, has custody of and is in the process of adopting them.

Englert is planning to appeal.



He will receive a court-appointed attorney on Friday, when his hired attorneys, Earl McCoy and Chad Montgomery, meet with the judge, Prosecutor Pat Harrington and Deputy Prosecutor Emily Orsinger to go over the \$12,000 restitution request from Gibson's family for funeral expenses.

Englert and two friends, 21-year-old Carolann R. Clear, of Lafayette, and 26-year-old Antonio O.J. Williams, of West Lafayette, were all equally charged with killing Gibson. The trio had been staying at Gibson's apartment on North Eighth Street. Clear, who recently moved to Lafayette from Florida with her mother, was Gibson's girlfriend.

Events that led to Gibson's death began with an argument on July 5, 2011, or early July 6, 2011, between him and Antonio Williams. It quickly escalated into a physical fight — with the trio accused of hog-tying Gibson, forcing him into the shower and forcing him into a vehicle that belonged to Clear's mother.

From there, they drove around Tippecanoe County, picked up a shovel, pickax and hatchet from Antonio Williams' home and eventually stopped at a cornfield near U.S. 231 North and County Road 500 North, near Montmorenci, where Gibson's body was found in a shallow grave covered with mulch, soil and cornstalks.

They later returned and poured acid onto Gibson's body, leaving him unrecognizable.

Gibson suffered numerous blows to the head, but the fatal injury was a laceration to his spine that also severed two arteries.

During Tuesday's sentencing hearing, a licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Jeffrey Vanderwater-Piercy of Lafayette, along with Englert's grandmother and new wife — they married last October, while Englert was awaiting trial — testified that Englert is easily influenced and a follower.

His influencer, they said, was Antonio Williams.

The grandmother described a time when Englert brought Antonio Williams with him to mow her lawn, and Antonio Williams "yanked the mower" away because Englert was doing it wrong.

"I could tell he was afraid of him," Englert's grandmother, Nina Lockard, said, explaining that her grandson had plans to join the Army or National Guard before befriendng Antonio Williams sometime after March 31, 2011, when he was released from prison.

Following Englert's arrest, she visited him at Tippecanoe County Jail and relayed their conversation in court Tuesday.

"I asked him, 'Why didn't you run? Why didn't you just run away as fast as you could?' " Lockard said.

"He replied, 'If I had done that, I would have been in the hole with Jeremy.' "

Vanderwater-Piercy, the psychologist, said he diagnosed Englert with dependent personality disorder after evaluating Englert, interviewing his family and reviewing police reports and witness statements.

Englert relied on Antonio Williams to make his decisions and would not challenge him, Vanderwater-Piercy testified, adding that Englert shirked responsibilities of adulthood.

Throughout his trial, Englert's attorneys asserted that Williams, who has a violent criminal history and convictions that included robbery, was the instigator in Gibson's death.

That was reiterated Tuesday by Vanderwater-Piercy, who described the crime as "sadistic" and meant to assert physical and emotional harm to Gibson. He believed the killing empowered Englert and aroused all three suspects

— so much that Englert and Clear engaged in sexual acts after placing Gibson's beaten body in the fetal position in a shallow grave.

"Darren's role in these sadistic actions, at times, was that of an active participant," Vanderwater-Piercy said, citing statements that Antonio Williams and Clear gave detectives.

Englert himself denied physically beating Gibson, instead pleading guilty to murder last March under Indiana's accomplice liability.

He was then found guilty in November of conspiracy to commit murder, a Class A felony; conspiracy to commit criminal confinement, a Class C felony; criminal confinement, a Class D felony; conspiracy to commit battery with a deadly weapon, a Class C felony; misdemeanor battery; and misdemeanor possession of marijuana following a weeklong jury trial.

On Tuesday afternoon, he sobbed while apologizing to Gibson's family and his own family, which includes an 11-month-old daughter.

He claims to have found God while incarcerated, and attorneys submitted numerous certificates he received at Tippecanoe County Jail for completing Bible study and other religious programs.

"I pray they will forgive me," Englert said of Gibson's family. "I'm sorry I don't seem remorseful. I'm truly sorry.

"God has made me a new person. When I look back at myself, I'm ashamed."

Clear was sentenced Jan. 18 to 44 years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit murder and fraud.

Antonio Williams, who provided Lafayette police with significant information on Gibson's death, died in January from lung complications, roughly 11 weeks after overdosing on methadone while serving time in prison for an unrelated robbery conviction.

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**January 29, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Darren Englert sentenced for 2011 murder of Lafayette man Gets 80 years in D.O.C**



KRISTA HENERY | Reporter

LYDIA WILLIAMS | New Media Executive Producer

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) - One of the men convicted of murdering a Lafayette man was sentenced to 80 years in prison Tuesday for his role in the homicide.

In November of 2012, 21-year-old Darren Englert was found guilty on six of nine charges filed against him in the July 2011 homicide of 26-year-old Jeremy Gibson.

Gibson's body was found buried in a field on County Road 500 North in July of 2011. Three people were identified as suspects (25-year-old Antonio Williams, 20-year-old Carolann Clear and Englert) and were brought in and charged with his murder.

You can learn about the investigation and the details from the night of the murder in our original story.

As for the other two suspects? In February of 2012, Gibson's girlfriend, Clear, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder and fraud. On Jan. 18 she was sentenced to 44 years in prison for her involvement in Gibson's death.

Williams was being held in the Miami Correctional Facility when he made an unsuccessful suicide attempt in late October of 2011. According to Deputy Coroner John Boyer, Williams overdosed on methadone, which led to a series of complications that resulted in Williams' death on Jan. 16, 2012.

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**January 26, 2013: TCPO**

## **Corey Joseph Kirks Charged with Five Felonies for Multiple Crimes on January 26, 2013**

Corey Joseph Kirks, 20, of Lafayette was charged today with five felonies that resulted from the burglary, theft, police chase and accident that occurred on Saturday, January 26, 2013.

Count I: Burglary, Class B Felony

Count II: Residential Entry, Class B Felony

Count III: Theft, Class D Felony

Count IV: Resisting Law Enforcement, Class D Felony

Count V: Resisting Law Enforcement, Class D Felony

Count VI: Criminal Recklessness with a Vehicle, Class A Misdemeanor

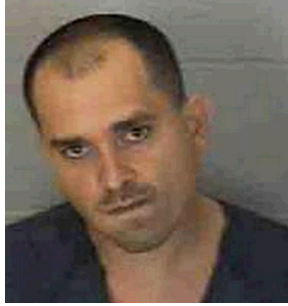
This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

All persons charge are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court

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**January 25, 2013: WLFI TV**

## Man sentenced for dealing methamphetamine



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - A Frankfort man was sentenced to two decades in prison for dealing methamphetamine.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Pedro Villarreal, 34, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and five years suspended after he pleaded guilty to dealing meth and conspiracy to commit dealing meth.

In May of 2012, News 18 reported a police officer checking the area around the Knights Inn Motel in Lafayette noticed a door opening and closing but no one leaving the motel room. Inside, investigators eventually found an active meth lab.

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**January 23, 2013: WLFI TV**

## Woman caught on camera stealing pills



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - A Lafayette woman was sentenced to time in community corrections and probation after she pleaded guilty to burglary.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington says in May of 2012, police were called to a reported burglary at an apartment on Ferry Street in Lafayette.

The resident told police after he had prescription medication stolen from him and that he had set up a web cam to catch whomever did it.

Harrington says the video shows 33-year-old Tarrah York, a cleaning person at the apartment complex, near the place he kept the medication.

The building manager told police York was only supposed to clean when a tenant had moved out, and she should not have had a key to that apartment.

Harrington says York later admitted to police she took the master key and took the pills from a bottle in the kitchen.

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**January 18, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Girlfriend gets 44 years in prison for Gibson murder**



SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jconline.com](mailto:svoravong@jconline.com)

A Lafayette woman was sentenced this morning to 44 years in prison for her involvement in the confinement and brutal beating death of her boyfriend, 26-year-old Jeremy K. Gibson, 19 months ago.

Carolann A. Clear, 21, had pleaded guilty in February 2012 to conspiracy to commit murder — a deal with the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office that required her testify against co-defendant Darren J. Englert during his trial last November.

In July 2011, Englert and his co-defendants, Clear and 25-year-old Antonio O.J. Williams of West Lafayette, were all staying in Gibson's apartment.

Events that led to Gibson's death began with an argument on July 5, 2011, or early July 6, 2011, between him and Antonio Williams. It quickly escalated into a physical fight — with the trio accused of hog-tying Gibson, forcing him into the shower and then forcing him into a vehicle that belonged to Clear's mother.

From there, they drove around Tippecanoe County, picked up a shovel, pickax and hatchet from Antonio Williams' home and eventually stopped at a cornfield near U.S. 231 North and County Road 500 North, near Montmorenci, where Gibson's body was found in a shallow grave covered with mulch, soil and cornstalks.

Gibson suffered numerous blows to the head, but the fatal injury was a laceration to his spine that also severed two arteries.

During today's sentencing hearing, Clear read a letter to Judge Randy Williams that indicated how she was scared and intimidated by her co-defendants.

Gibson's family and Prosecutor Pat Harrington, however, alleged that Clear was the "puppetmaster" and a manipulator who uses men to get what she wants.

**January 18, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Man dealt cocaine to undercover officer multiple times**



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WFLI) - A Lafayette man received 30 years in prison after pleading guilty to dealing cocaine this week.

Prosecutors say Brian White sold cocaine to an undercover police officer on several occasions in November and December of 2011.

They say police began an investigation after a report surfaced of a man known as "Cash" selling cocaine and marijuana.

The undercover officer used a body wire and recorded during the transactions.

**January 18, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Former Broncho Dad given 10-year sentence for molesting**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jconline.com](mailto:svoravong@jconline.com)

Michael S. McShurley, a former Lafayette School Corp. board candidate who spearheaded efforts to create the Broncho Dads mentoring program at Jefferson High School, was sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison for inappropriately touching a 12-year-old girl in his care.

The victim said McShurley began touching her — over and under her shirt, pants and underwear — when she was 8 or 9 years old. She alleges that it continued until June 12, 2011, the day she told a friend's mother.

He was arrested Sept. 1, 2011.

In December, following a three-day trial in Tippecanoe Circuit Court, jurors found McShurley guilty of three counts of child molesting, but they acquitted him of a fourth molestation allegation involving the girl, now 13 years old.

All of the charges were Class C felonies.

During the trial, McShurley never denied touching the girl — even testifying that he once went into the bathroom while she showered and hugged her naked body from behind. But it was meant only as affection and not for sexual gratification, he claimed.

McShurley's attorney, Carl Sandy, argued that the girl suffered from mental illness and made false accusations against McShurley and other adults before.

The girl's mother testified Friday that McShurley's actions were "reprehensible" and inflicted pain on her entire family.

She described confronting McShurley in August 2011 about the allegations, during which he admitted to kissing an older sibling of the victim and sending inappropriate text messages about her breasts. That girl was of legal age.

“You never once denied touching (the victim), just that you didn’t do it for sexual gratification,” the girl’s mother said. “You’re still entrenched in the lies you told yourself.”

The Journal & Courier typically does not identify the victims of sexual-based crimes or their family members.

Other testimony Friday focused on how sending McShurley to prison would negatively impact his autistic son, who is 21 years old and has the mental capacity of a child. McShurley’s father, Floyd McShurley, and his wife have helped watch the son for the past 18 months, but they will not be able to for much longer, he said. The son’s biological mother lives near Atlanta and travels often for her job — making it difficult for her to watch him.

“I’m not here to argue the facts of the case. A jury already decided that,” Floyd McShurley said. “I’m here because the future of a child is at stake.”

Deputy Prosecutor Kevin McDaniel agreed with that statement, but he said the child in question should be the victim, not McShurley’s son.

McShurley also received support from a local dignitary: state Rep. Sheila Klinker, D-Lafayette. Klinker submitted a letter to the court — on her official Indiana House of Representatives letterhead, according to McDaniel — detailing McShurley’s work with schools and the challenges he faces caring for an autistic child.

Klinker told the Journal & Courier on Friday that she is good friends with McShurley’s parents and knows him through church.

“The parents have the child now, but they can no longer care for him. Maybe if Michael was being monitored ... wearing ankle bracelet, he could still help take care of his son,” Klinker said, explaining the contents of her letter, which were filed with a confidential pre-sentence investigation report.

“I was not asked to testify, and I would not have done that. The case ... is a very sad state of affairs.”

McShurley will serve two years on probation after his arrest and must register as a sex offender.

“You should think long and hard about what you’ve done to put (your son) in this situation,” Judge Pro Tem Gregg Theobald said before handing down McShurley’s sentence.

**January 18, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Woman gets 44 years behind bars for involvement in boyfriend's murder**

Holly Campbell

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - Twenty-one-year-old Carolann Clear was sentenced to 44 years behind bars and five years' probation for her involvement in the murder of her boyfriend, 26-year-old Jeremy Gibson, in July of 2011.

Last February Clear pleaded guilty to a pair of felony charges: conspiracy to commit murder and fraud. Under a plea agreement Clear faced between 25 to 45 years in prison.

Investigators say she was one of three people who helped kill Gibson.

During sentencing Gibson's family asked the judge that Clear be sentenced to the maximum amount of time behind bars. Gibson's sister spoke about his two young sons she now cares for.

Meanwhile, the defense asked the judge for a sentencing of 30 years or less. Clear's father told the court how Clear's mother led her down a troubled path. He also said Clear is a follower.

He said that's why she took part and helped Darren Englert and Antonio Williams kill Gibson.

Prosecutor Pat Harrington said the judge took all of those factors into account before deciding on the 44-year sentence.

"Obviously the crime was very brutal," Harrington said. "It went on for a period of hours. There was plenty of opportunities for this defendant to intercede. There was a position of trust between the two of them as you heard from the family, the victim was in love with her and thought that she was going to be someone that he was going to spend the rest of his life with and instead she basically put him in the situation and assisted in his murder."

Darren Englert was convicted for his role in the murder last November. He is due to be sentenced Jan. 29.

Antonio Williams died in prison last year after being charged with murder.

**January 18, 2013: WLFI TV**

## **Man who worked with kids sentenced for child molestation**



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - Convicted child molester Michael McShurley was sentenced to 10 years in prison and two years probation when he went to court Friday. He must also register as a sex offender.

McShurley was found guilty of three counts of child molesting last month.

He appeared on News 18 in 2010 asking for help sending Lafayette Jeff seniors with special needs to prom, as well as being a member of the volunteer group "Broncho Dads."

The investigation began after a 12-year-old girl came forward in 2011 saying McShurley had fondled her on multiple occasions over the previous 2 years.

Many people submitted letters to the judge in support of McShurley and against him.

One letter supporting McShurley was from State Representative Sheila Klinker. The judge would not allow us to view the letter and Klinker declined an on-camera interview. However, Klinker says she does not support McShurley's actions.

She says she wrote the letter on behalf of McShurley's parents, who are caring for his autistic son and cannot care for him any longer.

In the letter, Klinker says she asked for the possibility of house arrest so McShurley would be able to care for his son himself. She says she only knew McShurley from church and his work in the community.

McShurley faced up to 24 years in prison.

**January 18, 2013: WLFI TV**



## Man faces 22 years for mixed drug charges



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFJ) - A mixed verdict was delivered this week in the trial of a Lafayette man on felony drug charges.

31-year-old Jeremy Rigney was found guilty of Narcotic Possession, being a Habitual Traffic Violator and Habitual Substance Abuser and Possession of Paraphernalia.

But he was found not guilty of Narcotic Dealing and possessing a syringe.

Rigney was stopped by police on State Road 26 East for having an expired license plate.

Police say he was a habitual traffic violator at the time.

Police say they found heroin on Rigney and in the car.

He faces up to 22 years in prison when he's sentenced next month.

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**January 17, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

### **2 sent to prison for cocaine, meth offenses in Lafayette**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jconline.com](mailto:svoravong@jconline.com)

#### **30 years for cocaine dealing**

A Lafayette man was sentenced Thursday to 30 years in prison for selling cocaine to an undercover police officers.

Brian White, 28, pleaded guilty last September in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 to dealing cocaine, a Class A felony.

Multiple occasions in November and December 2011, according to court documents.

White had claimed that dealing was out of character for him, but the court noted that the multiple purchases by detectives contradicted that.

#### **6 years for cooking meth**

A woman was sentenced Thursday to six years in prison and six years on probation for cooking methamphetamine at a Lafayette house where she had been staying last July.

Patricia Ziegler, 20, had been in Lafayette for only two months at the time of her arrest, according to Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Ziegler pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture meth, a Class B felony, Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

Her arrest came after Lafayette police received a complaint about a suspicious person with a flashlight in the backyard of a home at 3006 block of Elk St., on the city's north end. It was 2 a.m.

The responding officer found a bottle with a tube protruding from it, which is consistent with a one-pot style meth lab. A search of the home also turned up chemicals and other ingredients commonly used to cook the drug.

The tenants told police that they recently met Ziegler and another person and allowed them to stay because they had nowhere to go.

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**January 15, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **LPD officer is cleared in suspect's shooting**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jonline.com](mailto:svoravong@jonline.com)

Donna Gregorash, a three-year veteran of the Lafayette Police Department, won't face criminal charges or internal discipline for firing at a shooting suspect who drove a pickup truck toward responding officers Thursday night on the city's east side.

Two men died in the string of incidents, which ended with a brief chase through the Villas at Cascada neighborhood and the suspect crashing into a home at 114 Kettle Circle.

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said his officer has completed its review of the case and found that Gregorash did not commit any crime in discharging her duty weapon.

"Officer Gregorash acted courageously and lawfully in defense of herself, other officers and the public," Harrington said.

His review was independent from an internal Lafayette shooting review board that met from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to determine if Gregorash, 25, followed department policy.

The six-member board, headed by Deputy Chief Dave Payne, found that Gregorash's use of force was justified and within department policy.

Chief Pat Flannelly agreed with the board's recommendation, according to Payne.

A news conference is scheduled for this afternoon, during which more details will be released.

Gregorash, a patrol officer, was one of several officers who responded to reports of a shooting and a man, since identified as Joel Ray Hershman, 63, of Brook, being held against his will in a pickup truck that had been parked at IHOP.

The suspect was identified as 46-year-old Steven Keith Moseley, a homeless man staying in Lafayette.

Investigators believe Moseley shot Hershman while they were parked at IHOP.

Tippecanoe County Coroner Donna Avolt previously said Hershman died from gunshot wounds to both his legs. His death was ruled a homicide.

She declined to comment on how Moseley died, pending toxicology results.

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**January 12, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Admission of murder includes no appeal; victim was grandfather**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; svoravong@jonline.com

An Indianapolis man faces 61 to 115 years in prison after admitting that he killed his 84-year-old grandfather, William Hartlep of Lafayette, on Oct. 12, 2011, by strangling his neck with an extension cord and slashing his throat with a knife.

The grandson, 39-year-old Richard F. Fouts, pleaded guilty Friday morning in Tippecanoe Circuit Court to murder in Hartlep's death and to burglary and being a habitual offender in an unrelated break-in Oct. 11, 2011, at a home on Alabama Street.

Fouts is scheduled to be sentenced March 3 by Judge Don Daniel.

Under a plea agreement with the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office, Fouts cannot appeal his sentence, and additional charges of felony murder, robbery while armed with a deadly weapon and theft could be dropped.

Investigators allege that Fouts went to his grandfather's home at 2213 Meadow Drive, off South 18th Street near Jefferson High School, and woke him up to ask for money. Hartlep, however, refused and asked Fouts to leave.

A family friend found Hartlep's home ransacked later that day.

The elderly man, a World War II veteran, was a well-known resident of his Edgelea neighborhood, often spotted outside in his motorized scooter, where he waved at passers-by.

Hartlep's death had remained unsolved until Fout's arrest in February 2012. Detectives got their break after collecting DNA samples from Hartlep's family members to be used for reference and elimination against the evidence.

Fouts admitted Friday to initially tying up his grandfather using duct tape. When asked by his attorney, Tom O'Brien, how Hartlep was killed, Fouts paused for several seconds before quietly replying, "I strangled him and cut his throat."

Hartlep was found lying in a pool of blood on his kitchen floor.

Investigators suspect that Fouts ransacked the home to make it appear like a robbery. According to court documents, drawers had been removed, furniture had been moved and numerous items were strewn throughout. A safe in a closet also had been opened.

Fouts, however, did admit to taking coins that he thought were dollar coins. But they turned out to be commemorative coins from TRW, a Lafayette factory where Hartlep worked for many years.

The habitual offender sentencing enhancement is due to Fouts' extensive criminal history, which dates to 1991 and includes convictions for theft, burglary and forgery in Tippecanoe and Warren counties and South Carolina.

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**January 11, 2013: Indianapolis Star**

## **Indianapolis man admits killing 84-year-old grandfather**

SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jconline.com](mailto:svoravong@jconline.com)

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**January 9, 2013: TCPO**

Casey Lee Kimbrell, 17, of Lafayette was charged today as an adult for Dealing in and Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance (Class C and Class D felonies). Kimbrell was in possession within 1,000 feet of McCutcheon High School in Tippecanoe County.

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**January 4, 2013: Lafayette Journal and Courier**

## **Homicide suspect pleads to lesser charges in Rogers killing If judge agrees, murder charge could be dropped; a Feb. 15 sentencing date set**



SOPHIA VORAVONG; [svoravong@jonline.com](mailto:svoravong@jonline.com)

This time around, Jeremiah Thompson has opted to not take his chances before a second jury on accusations that he was involved in the April 8, 2010, shooting death of 21-year-old Kory D. Rogers.

Thompson, 28, of Reelsville, had been slated to stand trial beginning Tuesday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 on charges that included felony murder, conspiracy to commit robbery, conspiracy to commit burglary and attempted theft.

It would have been Thompson's second trial. His first, held over seven days in August, ended because jurors could not reach unanimous verdicts.

On Thursday morning, Thompson pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery and conspiracy to commit burglary, which were both Class A felonies, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Under a plea agreement, the additional charges — that includes the lead count, felony murder, along with lesser offenses such as attempted theft — could be dropped when Thompson is scheduled for sentencing Feb. 15.

And if Judge Randy Williams accepts the plea, Thompson will face only 20 to 35 years in prison. Murder alone is punishable by 45 to 65 years in prison.

Meanwhile, Thompson's co-defendant, 32-year-old Edward C. Zaragoza of Moorsville, is serving a 120-year prison sentence after a jury convicted him last summer of felony murder, murder, being a serious violent felon in possession of a handgun and seven other charges.

Rogers was fatally shot in chest in the basement apartment of his sister's house at 2200 Ottawa Drive, near Jefferson High School on Lafayette's south end.

Prosecutors alleged that Thompson and Zaragoza were after a large sum of cash and marijuana that Rogers, a suspected drug dealer, had stolen from his supplier in mid-March of 2010, a few weeks before his death.

Neither suspect knew Rogers, but investigators and prosecutors relied heavily on cellphone technology and statements from their acquaintances to piece together the case, according to evidence and testimony presented during their respective trials.

Zaragoza, who is the husband of Thompson's cousin, repeatedly denied these claims.

Thompson's guilty plea Thursday jibed with what investigators had been saying all along. He admitted to hatching a plan with Zaragoza, which involved using force to rob Rogers of cash and marijuana, Harrington said.

No one could remember seeing Zaragoza or Thompson in Tippecanoe County on April 7 or April 8, 2010. But investigators caught a break after finding a receipt for the Economy Inn on those dates.

Though an Economy Inn employee could not identify him, Zaragoza signed in using his real name. The employee, however, could only remember there being two men and did not remember Thompson.

#### **January 4, 2013: TCPO**

John "Jake" Venters was sentenced today to 19 years for his role in the vehicle accident that killed Brandon Stansberry.

The Court sentenced the Defendant to 8 years on Count XIII: Reckless Homicide, Class C Felony (FC); enhanced by 11 years on Count XIV: Habitual Offender. The Defendant will have 18 years executed at DOC and 1 year suspended (supervised probation).

#### **January 4, 2013: WLFI TV**

### **Guilty plea in connection with Rogers murder**

Dan Klein

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - A Putnam County man pleaded guilty to his role in a 2010 Lafayette murder case.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Jeremiah Thompson, 30, of Reelsville, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery and conspiracy to commit burglary charges Thursday. In exchange, seven other charges including murder will be dropped in connection with the April 2010 shooting of 21-year-old Kory Rogers on the 2200 block of Ottawa Drive.

In August 2012, Edward Zaragoza was sentenced to 120 years in prison for his role in the murder.

That same month, Thompson went to trial. But it ended in a hung jury.

With the plea deal, Thompson faces 20 to 35 years in prison and avoids a new trial that was set to begin next week. A sentencing hearing is set for Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m.